

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants note the claim objection to claim 24. However, this claim has been canceled.

There are no other formal matters outstanding.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claims 24 and 25 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 24 depended from claim 17 which depended from claim 16. New claim 32 is a combination of allowable claim 24 together with claims 16 and 17. The claim has also been drafted taking into account the claim objection to original claim 24. As the subject matter of claim 24 was indicated to be allowable, allowance of claim 32 and its dependent claims is solicited.

Claim 29 is also believed to be allowable.

Claim 29 was rejected as being anticipated by SWENSON et al. 5,575,446. Claim 29 was also rejected as being anticipated by BRODY et al. 5,630,257.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

With respect to both SWENSON et al. and BRODY et al., the Official Action states that each teaches first and second slots which are of doglegged form. Additionally the Official

Action argues that both Swenson and Brody teach that the first and second slots each have a widened mouth at the edge of the body. However, neither Swenson nor Brody teaches doglegged slots each having a widened mouth.

In each of Swenson and Brody either the widened mouth is present and the slot is doglegged or the slot is doglegged and there is no widened mouth. There is therefore no disclosure in either Swenson or Brody of a clip which has a body where a first slot of doglegged form extends from a widened mouth at the edge of the body and a second slot of doglegged form which extends from a mouth at the edge of the body.

Effectively Swenson and Brody simply disclose straight slots extending from a widened mouth directly into the opening within the body. It is therefore believed that amended claim 29 distinguishes the invention from both Swenson and Brody. New claims are depending from claim 29 and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

The new claims are fairly based on the disclosure (when read in conjunction with the drawings) of the specification. The first portion of the slots is lead in portion 20 (at an angle of 90° to the edge of the body) and the second portion is the inclined portion 21 (see page 6, lines 11-14). The second portion extending diametrically is shown in the drawings.

Having amended claim 29 so as to patentably recite the invention, reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

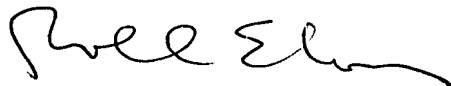
Please charge the requisite fee of \$25 for the one extra claim of any type in excess of 20, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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